

November 15, 2015

The November 15, 2015 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Ruth Pante, held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1976, followed by a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Present were Ruth Pante, Dawn Smith, Robert Jewell, Township Committeemen Joseph Watters and Michael Misertino. Excused were Elaine Drazek and Glenn Todd; absent was James McMekin. In the audience was Tim Terry, owner of the Penny Toss Farm. No quorum was present.

Mr. Terry wants to donate trees to the Hector Cafferata Park and will provide services of transporting and planting at the park. This is a preliminary plan, but it is a sincere offer. In the plan are Skyline Locusts which offer an umbrella canopy, filtered shade, low maintenance, and they are not messy. Also, he is offering Sweet Gum Whortlestone which is deep purple in color and will help delineate the parking areas. Also, Japanese Flowering Kusa dogwoods and redbuds, both of which are colorful and attractive. All of these trees are disease tolerant. Mulch and water will have to be supplied by the Environmental Commission. He wants to stake out for now but will start at the entrance to the park and work back. Mr. Watters requested a written description.

The total trees planned for this donation are eight locust, eight sweet gum, five redbud and five dogwood. His time frame is to deliver and plant by Christmas. For this donation, Mr. Terry asked for the opportunity to dedicate a small area at the park to his neighbor and good friend who recently died. Commission members expressed gratitude for this very generous donation and offered assistance to begin the project.

Mr. Terry reviewed his plans and the map of the park with Mr. Misertino.

Received in the mail was a letter from Natural Systems Utilities on behalf of Meadows at Mansfield by which treatment works approval is sought. Mr. Jewell is pleased this is still an age restricted community, and Mr. Watters said this will be the only one in Mansfield. Much water will be going into the septic field - 45,235 gallons per day (GPD).

Also received in the mail was a letter from CP Professional services on behalf of Warren County (Pequest River) MUA by which a Highlands Applicability Determination is requested for Pump Station #1 and #2 upgrades. Commission members had no comments.

Ms. Smith reported the ANJEC grant requirements have been completed. Forester Tim Matthews conducted a course tour on October 10 for 20 participants. His written report with recommendations has not yet been received. A total of \$600 of the \$750 amount has been budgeted for his effort; the remainder can be used for signage and for bluebird houses with their necessary mounting poles. Cub Scouts will assist with construction of the bird houses, with assistance from Home Depot. Ms. Fascenelli reminded the Environmental Commission 2015 budget is exhausted.

Discussing the need to update Mansfield's ERI, it was suggested that application be made for a grant through Sustainable Jersey; notification of upcoming grants should be forthcoming. Recent grants have been in the amounts of \$2,000 and \$10,000 and even \$20,000; we can apply for as many as we want. It will be necessary to submit a request to the Township Committee first. ANJEC has the names of several people qualified to prepare an ERI; for Mansfield it will be an update to the 2006 ERI and will hopefully be a lower cost.

The 2016 budget and the 2015 year-end report were tabled to the December meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Pante